

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 01968 180603Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 L-03 EB-08 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 COME-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 /051 W
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R 180527Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5377
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 01968

TOKYO ALSO FOR RFO, CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, NZ, JA
SUBJECT: AUCTIONING OF JAPANESE FISHING VESSELS

REF: (A) WELLINGTON 0415, (B) WELLINGTON 0577,
- (C) WELLINGTON 0666, (D) WELLINGTON 1124

1. A SENIOR MFA OFFICIAL ADVISED EMBOFF APRIL 17 THAT
THE GNZ HAS: (A) SOLD THE JAPANESE TRAWLER "TOMI
MARU 81" BACK TO ITS JAPANESE OWNERS; AND (B) DECIDED
NOT TO PUT THE SECOND SEIZED TRAWLER, "TAIKO MARU 2,"
WHICH IS MUCH LARGER AND MORE VALUABLE, UP FOR AUCTION.

2. FOLLOWING THE GNZ'S DECISION TO AUCTION OFF THE
"TOMI MARU" AND ITS FROZEN 300-TON CATCH (REFTEL C),
NINE BIDS WERE TENDERED, INCLUDING ONE BY ITS JAPANESE
OWNERS. IT WAS THIS TENDER WHICH THE GNZ ACCEPTED
APRIL 17. (FYI: MFA SOURCES REVEALED THAT SEVEN OF
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THE NINE BIDS WERE FROM NZ COMPANIES AND THAT SEVERAL
WERE CONSIDERABLY LARGER THAN THE ACCEPTED BID, WHICH
WAS FOR \$205,000. END FYI.)

3. THE COURT CASE AGAINST THE "TAIKO MARU" HAS SIMUL-
TANEOUSLY PROCEEDED WITH CONVICTIONS ON TWO COUNTS
REGISTERED AGAINST THE VESSEL'S CAPTAIN AND TWO CREW

MEMBERS ON APRIL 17. SENTENCING IS SCHEDULED FOR
APRIL 24.

4. WHILE IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE "TAIKO MARU" WILL
BE ORDERED FORFEITED TO THE GNZ BY THE COURT, IT IS THE
GNZ OPTION AS TO HOW THE VESSEL WILL THEN BE DISPOSED.
GNZ OFFICIALS ARE UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE DECIDED THAT THE
"TAIKO MARU" WILL BE SOLD BACK TO ITS OWNERS AT A PRICE
TO BE NEGOTIATED, WITHOUT SEEKING TENDERS. THE GNZ
BELIEVES THAT THESE TWO MOVES INDICATE TOUGH ENFORCEMENT
OF ITS EEZ LAWS AND REGULATIONS ON THE ONE HAND, BUT ON
THE OTHER A SIGNAL TO THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT THAT THE
GNZ DOES NOT WANT TO HARASS AND VICTIMIZE BUT RATHER
REACH AN ACCOMMODATION ON JAPANESE ACCESS TO THE NZ
FISHERY. SELDEN

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Message Attributes

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